

## Case 3074

***Eudendrium arbuscula* Wright, 1859 (Cnidaria, Hydrozoa): proposed conservation of the specific name**

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this application is to conserve the specific name of the well-known hydroid *Eudendrium arbuscula* Wright, 1859. It is threatened by the specific name of *Tubularia arbuscula* d'Orbigny, 1846 which was transferred to *Eudendrium* Ehrenberg, 1834 by Ridley (1881), thereby making *E. arbuscula* Wright a junior secondary homonym, and also by the replacement name *E. wrightii* Hartlaub, 1905. Neither *E. arbuscula* (d'Orbigny) nor *E. wrightii* have been used as valid names since 1905, whereas *E. arbuscula* Wright has been extensively used.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Hydrozoa; EUDENDRIIDAE; *Eudendrium arbuscula*.

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1. D'Orbigny (1846, p. 28) established the nominal species *Tubularia arbuscula* based on a poorly preserved hydrozoan colony without polyps from the Patagonian region (Argentina). As far as we can ascertain, the type material studied by d'Orbigny is lost.

2. Wright (1859, p. 113) described and figured one specimen (also believed lost) from the Firth of Forth, Scotland, naming it *Eudendrium arbuscula*; this name has sometimes been recorded as *arbusculum*, but we treat it as a noun in apposition. Wright's species is now known to be widespread in the North Sea, where it forms conspicuous colonies, and elsewhere.

3. D'Orbigny's taxon *Tubularia arbuscula* was transferred to the genus *Eudendrium* Ehrenberg, 1834 by Ridley (1881, p. 103), thereby rendering *Eudendrium arbuscula* Wright a junior secondary homonym of d'Orbigny's *arbuscula*. Hartlaub (1905) recorded *E. arbuscula* (d'Orbigny) from the Chilean coast, and (p. 547) proposed the name *Eudendrium wrightii* as a replacement name for *E. arbuscula* Wright. Under Article 59b of the Code (3rd Edition) a junior secondary homonym replaced before 1961 is permanently invalid unless the use of the replacement name 'is a cause of confusion' in which case the Commission should be asked 'for a ruling as to which name will . . . best serve stability and universality, and that name is then the valid name'. Bedot (1925, p. 181) and Kramp (1926, p. 243) objected to Hartlaub's (1905)

proposal of a replacement name because they considered that the species described by d'Orbigny (1846) was unidentifiable and therefore the replacement name unnecessary. Hartlaub's replacement name *E. wrightii* has never been used as a valid name since its proposal in 1905.

4. The name *Eudendrium arbuscula* (d'Orbigny) has also not been used as a valid name since Hartlaub (1905); d'Orbigny's taxon has not been recognized in any genus since 1905. As mentioned in para. 1 (above) the holotype is lost and we concur with Bedot (1925) and Kramp (1926) that it is unidentifiable. In contrast, *E. arbuscula* Wright has been recorded by that name many times both before and since Hartlaub's proposed replacement (e.g., Hamond, 1957; Calder, 1972; Bromley, 1979); 15 further references by 17 different authors in the last 50 years are held by the Commission Secretariat.

5. In order to conserve the specific name of *Eudendrium arbuscula* Wright, 1859, we propose the suppression of *E. arbuscula* (d'Orbigny, 1846) and the maintenance of validity of its junior homonym *E. arbuscula* Wright.

6. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers:

(a) to suppress the name *arbuscula* d'Orbigny, 1846, as published in the binomen *Tubularia arbuscula*, for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;

(b) to rule that the specific name *arbuscula* Wright, 1859, as published in the binomen *Eudendrium arbuscula*, is not invalid by reason of having been replaced before 1961 as a junior secondary homonym of *Tubularia arbuscula* d'Orbigny, 1846;

(2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *arbuscula* Wright, 1859, as published in the binomen *Eudendrium arbuscula* (not invalid by the ruling in (1)(b) above);

(3) to place the following names on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology:

(a) *arbuscula* d'Orbigny, 1846, as published in the binomen *Tubularia arbuscula* and as suppressed in (1)(a) above;

(b) *wrightii* Hartlaub, 1905, as published in the binomen *Eudendrium wrightii* (a junior objective synonym of *Eudendrium arbuscula* Wright, 1859).

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